

To: Renewable Advisory Board

From: Janice McClanaghan,
Energy Office

Date: May 3, 2005

Subject: Update

The following is the May 2005, monthly update for the Renewable Energy Fund:

RES Programs/Supply

Wind

- 1) URI –The students are submitting a request (to be presented at the May 10, 2005, meeting) for funding to install anemometers on the WURI radio tower. The university has selected a performance contractor who reportedly has experience installing wind turbines.
- 2) Portsmouth Abbey Wind –The Abbey wind project was moved off the Agenda for the Portsmouth Zoning Review Board meeting on April 21 (the meeting Agenda was too full), and rescheduled for a special purpose meeting on May 5. Some opposition has surfaced among a couple of the Abbey's neighbors.
- 3) Raytheon – The Raytheon feasibility study proposal has been revised to include the cost of the anemometers and tower, which will be owned by Roger Williams University. This cost was left out of the proposal that was submitted in April and given positive review by the Advisory Board to the Fund. The cost of the anemometers and tower will be provided at the May 10, 2005, meeting. Raytheon and the Fund are negotiating the conditions of the grant for the feasibility study, which will be presented to the Board at the May 10, 2005 meeting. Jonathan Edwards of Smartpower met with Raytheon facilities staff on April 21, 2005 to discuss outreach for the project in anticipation of permitting.
- 4) Roger Williams University Wind Center – See attached Update (email.)
- 5) Avian Issues – CESA is preparing a memo which will be addressed to two Assistant Secretaries of the US Department of Interior intended to determine the interest on the part of the agency in undertaking a process to establish safe harbor agreements between wind project hosts and the Federal government. The proposed terms of the safe harbor are that if the wind project follows certain protocols with respect to birds (site assessment, project design, post construction monitoring, and mitigation of impacts), then it will be protected from action under the Migratory Bird Treat Act (Act). At this time, developers, particularly in the Northeast, are receiving letters from US Fish and Wildlife (part of the Dept. of Interior) threatening legal action under the Act if a project is built without three years of bird monitoring prior to construction and a bird is "taken."
- 6) Berkshire Wind – No update.
- 7) Offshore Wind Collaborative –No update. Greg Watson (MRET) will be presenting at the July 2005 Board meeting.

Hydropower/Ocean Wave

- 8) Energetech Point Judith Ocean Wave Project - FERC this month issued a declaratory order for the Verdant run-of-river project (East River, New York) that will permit their limited duration experimental project which will not be grid connected to operate without a FERC license. With the benefit of discussions with FERC and others, the developer is completing its Declaration of Intention to FERC and expect to submit that in 2 weeks. Tom Denniss and Cynthia Rudge will be meeting locally on May 13th and 14th, including with the representatives of the local residents groups adjacent to the project. There have been no technical or economic roadblocks discovered in the preliminary review of transporting the Energetech Port Kembla device to the Point Judith location. The Port Kembla project is only a couple of weeks away from commissioning.
- 9) Royal Mills Hydro – No Update.
- 10) Rentricity – See attached Update (email.)
- 11) Slater Mill Hydro Project–Chris Warfel is following up with Slater Mill to determine a cost breakdown for the Project (see Entech Update.) Slater Mill has requested \$390,000 from the Fund to rehabilitate a 25 kW hydro project at the mill site.

Voluntary Markets Support – Customer Sited

PV

- 12) Solar on Schools – See attached Entech Update.
- 13) Open PV Program – There has been a high level of activity recently with this program. This will be presented and discussed at the May 10, 2005 meeting. The activity for FY 2005 is \$459,880 in committed incentives for 92 kW at 17 sites.

Voluntary Market Support – Green Power

- 14) Renewable Energy Customer Aggregation (RECA) RFP and Proposal to Large Customer Program – See attached Think Energy Update.
- 15) State House Green Power Purchase – Two proposals were received to provide RECs for 5 years to “green” the energy consumption of the State House. The proposals are under review.
- 16) GreenUp – As of the end of April, 2005, there have been a total of 1966 GreenUp signups, as compared to 1680 at the end of March, 2005.

Outreach and Education

- 17) Smartpower – Update will be provided at May 10, 2005, meeting.
- 18) Audubon – see attached Update (email).

- 19) Apeiron – The 3rd Annual Rhode Island Sustainable Living Festival & Renewable Energy Expo will be held on Saturday, June 5th from 11 am to 7 pm. Smartpower is participating in the plans for outreach.

Administration

- 20) Strategic Plan – Consultants will present proposed program plan outlines for Customer Sited programs at the May 10, 2005, meeting. A short update on RES program planning will also be provided. The Outreach subcommittee is reviewing the CT Clean Communities Program for possible adoption of some of the program features in RI.
- 21) CESA – Allison Schumaker of CESA is planning a presentation to the RI Fund Board on the types of assistance CESA can offer state funds on an individual basis. The presentation has not been scheduled as of yet.